

REMARKS


Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Song (U.S. 5,949,999) in view of Prasad (U.S. 6,917,944) and in further view of Briegs (U.S. 7,054,823) and in further view of the Hartel application (U.S. Patent Application Number 2003/0028549). Claims 3, 8, 23, 24, 35, and 36 are cancelled.

Filed herewith is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 that demonstrates the reduction to practice of each element of the above-listed claims prior to the filing date of the Prasad reference, August 30, 2001. The Prasad reference is therefore not prior art as to the instant application, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-22, and 25-34 be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-22, and 25-34 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to enter this Amendment and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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